THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the policy, the doubling of the single line section is taken up to improve the carrying capacity, freight intensive sections being given priority.

The present level of traffic on Ambari Falakata to Aliporeduar/New Alipurdour Sections does not justify doubling of this line. However, Gauge Conversion of Siliguri-Bongaigoan Section is likely to be taken up in the coming years to serve as a double line between Jalpaiguri and Aliporerdaur stations.

Ban on Export of Potatoes

3053. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of potatoes grown in West Bengal has been banned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Government has approached the Union Government for lifting the ban; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government to this?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ban had been imposed due to presence of potato wart disease which requires stirct domestic plant quarantine measures to check further spread of disease.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As the disease is still prevalant, it will not be in the interest of potato cultivation in other parts of the country to relax the domestic quarantine measures at this stage.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Cabinet Ministers

3054. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on the salaries, allowances, accommodation and tours of he Cabinet Ministers during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to make any amendment in these facilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) A statement containing the requisite information pertaining to salaries, allowances and tours is enclosed. Information in regard to accommodation is being collected.

(b) and (c). No proposal to make any change in these facilities is under consideration at present.

STATEMENT

The expenditure on Council of Ministers for past 3 years

Year	Salaries (in Rs.)	Allowances (in. Rs.)	Tours (in Rs.)
1993-94	19,01,488	57,50,081	30,35,96,088
1994-95	23,61,709	61,71,821	40,32,50,659
1995-96	22,83,230	69,31,809	39,98,61,828

[English]

Hazardous Industries

3055. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted about the hazardous industries located in Delhi and implementation of the safety regulations by these units;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the faulty units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). As per information made available by the Chief Inspector of Factories, National Capital Territory of Delhi, during 1991-93 inspections of 113 identified hazardous factories covered under the Factories Act, 1948, were carried out. Improvement notices were issued to these factories for rectification of certain discrepancies observed during inspections.

During 1991-93 a total of 163 challans were filed in the Court of the Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi against the defaulting units. A sum of Rs.1.228 lakh was imposed as fine by the court on the challans decided during this period.

20 major Accident Hazard (MAH) units were identified in Delhi and a rapid safety audit conducted to suggest risk reduction measures under a scheme entitled, "Industrial Pocketwise Hazard Analysis" in 1996. The reports of the survey have been made available to all the MAH units.

Setting up of Cashew Board

3056. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Cashew Board;